

Listing of Claims:

1. (Original) A method for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a hardfile controller included in a computer system having an operating system performing a pre-boot test, comprising the steps of:

- a) detecting a boot condition during the pre-boot test; and
- b) altering, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access

configuration of the hardfile.

2. (Original) The access method of claim 1 wherein the altering step b) dynamically sets a maximum accessible size of the hardfile.

3. (Original) The access method of claim 1 wherein the hardfile is a hard drive.

4. (Original) The method of claim 1 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile access to exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

5. (Original) The method of claim 2 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile maximum size to exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

6. (Original) The method of claim 4 wherein the boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.
7. (Original) A method for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a computer system having an operating system, comprising the steps of:
 - a) detecting a special boot condition during a pre-boot test of the computer system; and
 - b) altering, in response to the special boot condition, an operating system access configuration of the hardfile.
8. (Original) The access method of claim 7 wherein the altering step b) dynamically sets a maximum accessible size of the hardfile.
9. (Original) The access method of claim 7 wherein the hardfile is a hard drive.
10. (Original) The method of claim 7 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile access to exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.
11. (Original) The method of claim 8 wherein the operating system is stored on a first part of the hardfile and user data is stored on a second part of the hardfile, and wherein the altering step b) sets the hardfile maximum size to exclude the second part of the hardfile from access by the operating system.

12. (Original) The method of claim 10 wherein the special boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

13. (Original) A storage system for a computer system having an operating system and a pre-boot procedure, comprising:

a hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile; and

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by the pre-boot procedure, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access to only the first part in a second mode.

14. (Original) A storage system for a computer system having an operating system, comprising:

a hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile; and

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a special boot condition detected by a pre-boot procedure of the computer system, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access to only the first part in a second mode.

15. (Original) A storage system controller for a hardfile of a computer system having an operating system and a pre-boot procedure, the hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating

system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile, comprising:

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a boot condition detected by the pre-boot procedure, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access by the operating system to only the first part in a second mode.

16. (Original) A storage system controller for a hardfile of a computer system having an operating system, the hardfile for non-volatile storage of the operating system on a first part of the hardfile and a plurality of user data on a second part of the hardfile, comprising:

a hardfile controller, coupled to the hardfile and responsive to a boot condition detected by a pre-boot procedure of the computer system, for dynamically reconfiguring operating system access to the hardfile to permit access to both the first part and the second part in a first mode and to permit access by the operating system to only the first part in a second mode.

17. (Original) A hardfile system for a computer system, comprising:

a hardfile for nonvolatile storage of a operating system and user data;

means, coupled to the computer system, for detecting a special boot condition during the pre-boot test; and

means, coupled to the hardfile and to the detecting means, for altering, in response to the special boot condition, an operating system access configuration of the hardfile.

18. (Original) A hardfile storage system, comprising:

a hardfile for nonvolatile storage of an operating system for a computer system in a first part and for nonvolatile storage of user data in a second part; and

means, coupled to the hardfile, for dynamically enabling operating system access to the hardfile in a first mode and a second mode, wherein the first mode enables access to the first part and the second part and the second mode enables access to only the first part.

19. (Original) A computer usable medium having computer readable program code means embodied therein for access control of a hardfile, responsive to a hardfile controller included in a computer system having an operating system performing a pre-boot test, the computer readable program code means in the computer usable medium comprising:

computer readable program code means for causing the computer system to detect a boot condition during the pre-boot test; and

computer readable program code means for causing the computer system to alter, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access configuration parameter of the hardfile.

20. (Original) The computer usable medium of claim 19 wherein the boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

21. (Original) The computer usable medium of claim 19 wherein the hardfile is a hard disk.

22. (Original) The computer usable medium of claim 21 wherein the configuration parameter is a SETMAX value.

23. (Original) A computer readable medium containing program instructions for access control of a hard file in a computer system, the program instructions for:

- a) detecting a boot condition during the pre-boot test; and
- b) altering, in response to the boot condition, an operating system access configuration of an access parameter of the hardfile.

24. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the boot condition is a hardware tamper detect.

25. (Original) The computer readable medium of claim 23 wherein the hardfile is a hard disk.